Concordia enraged

Ryan stalls for more time

by Aaron Derfel

Education minister Claude Ryan has missed his deadline to decide whether Concordia gets more money and he wants two more weeks to make up his mind.

Ryan told Concordia's Board of Governors last month that he would review their proposal for the university to receive an extra $500,000, and said he would give them an answer within two weeks.

But Ryan's aide Luc Rheaume said in a telephone interview Wednesday that the minister still needs more time to make a final decision.

"We're still studying the proposals of Concordia, but other universities have points of view on that $3.7 million, such as McGill and UQUAM," Rheaume said. "That's why Mr. Ryan wants more time."

The provincial government has distributed the $3.7 million sum to Québec universities to correct inequities in base funding (a fixed amount of money universities receive each year). Concordia has received $183,000 from that sum so far.

Concordia's student association (CUSA) co-president Maxine Clarke said "it's ridiculous that Ryan has to take so much time.

"Even a day is giving Ryan a lot of time to think about changing the funding formula; two weeks is very generous; four weeks is ridiculous."

The Rector's executive assistant Catherine MacKenzie refused to comment on Rheaume's statement Wednesday, saying she would telephone Ryan the next day.

But MacKenzie and Rector Patrick Kenniff were unavailable for comment yesterday.

Concordia has begun a series of protests to pressure Ryan to devise a fairer funding formula for the university. The protest actions—which involve university faculty, staff and students —are:

- Shutting down Concordia for a day November 17.
- Sending Concordia protesters to march in front of the Quebec National Assembly during the shutdown.
- Writing protest letters to Ryan and Premier Robert Bourassa (10,000 letters have been written so far).

Rheaume said Concordia's protests are "ridiculous" and will not help Ryan make up his mind.

"Mr. Ryan said last week during interviews that he doesn't accept these protests and said Concordia is complaining too loudly," he added.

CUSA's education vice president Randy Orr said the provincial government has been ignoring Concordia's financial plight because the university doesn't have any political clout.

"It's well known that there are not many Concordia graduates working for the Québec government," said Orr. "So when they sit down, there's no one there to remind them that Concordia has a purpose in Québec."

Clarke said she is not discouraged by Ryan's unwillingness to act quickly.

"Regardless of his decision, we're going ahead on November 17 to march in Québec City," she said.

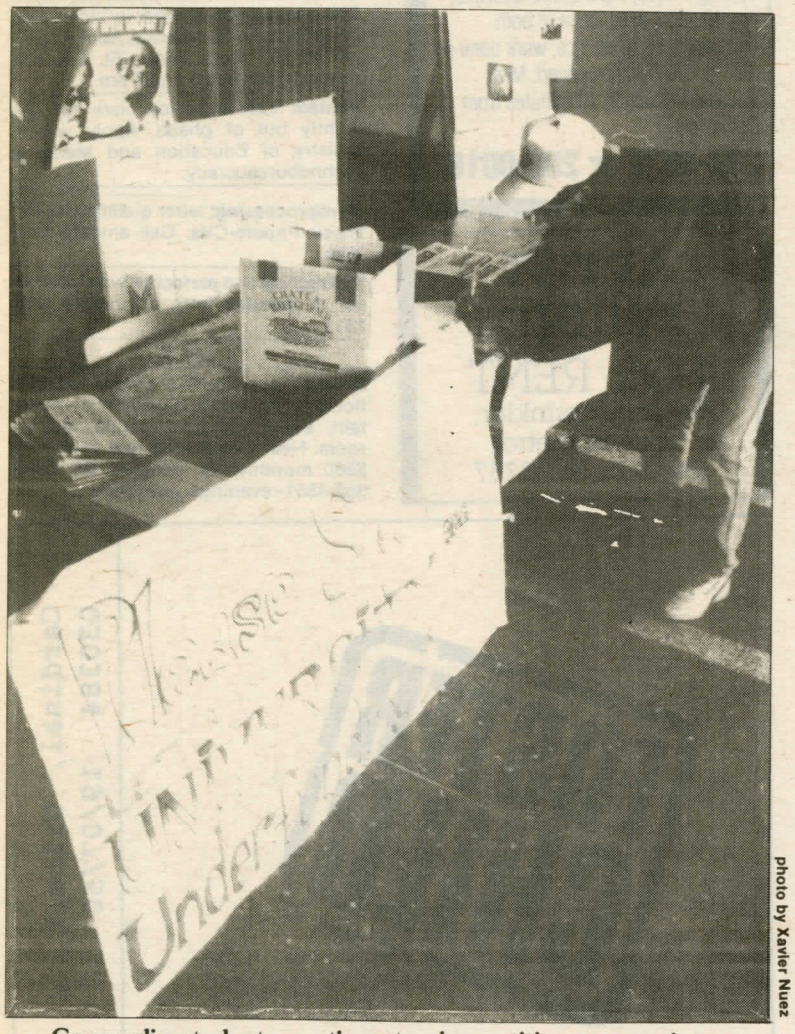

photo by Xavier Nuez

Concordia students continue to sign petitions protesting underfunding but Education Minister Claude Ryan seems to be ignoring them.

the Link

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Volume 8, Number 15
Friday, November 6, 1987

Over loans and bursaries

McGill strikes; CUSA says no

by Aaron Derfel

Concordia will not join the province's largest student coalition in a strike to protest Québec's loans and bursaries system, but McGill has decided to strike even though it is not a member of the coalition.

L'Association nationale des étudiantes et étudiants du Québec (ANEEQ) will strike November 12 to force education minister Claude Ryan to make public his reform proposals to the loans and bursaries system.

Concordia's student association, an ANEEQ member, will send a student delegation to Québec City instead of striking, said CUSA's education vice president Randy Orr.

"There seemed to be a negative reaction to the last time CUSA tried to organize a general strike with ANEEQ—hardly any students went," said Orr.

However, Orr said CUSA will take part in Concordia's one-day shutdown November 17 to protest provincial government underfunding. He added it would be impossible to organize two boycotts of classes in one week.

Although not a member of ANEEQ, the McGill student society voted Tuesday night to join other Québec students in the strike.

"I think ANEEQ (which represents 200,000 Quebecers) has done a lot to open themselves to non-member universities," said McGill student society president Daniel Tenenbaum. "They want to make a united front to present to the government."

Among ANEEQ's recommendations to the loans and bursaries system are:

- Allowing part-time students to receive financial aid.
- Giving more financial aid to disabled and pregnant students .
- Granting students who don't live at home independent status so they may receive more financial aid.

Ryan's aide Luc Rheaume said Wednesday that ANEEQ's demands are unreasonable.

"Some requests make sense, but some are just too expensive," he said. "The whole provincial budget is $30 billion. Imagine if ANEEQ asks for something which costs $1 billion—that's three per cent of the whole budget. That's just too much."

ANEEQ executive Jean-Pierre Paquet said he disagrees with Rheaume's $1 billion figure.

"When he says our recommendations will cost $1 billion, he's playing around with figures," Paquet said. "It's very crazy."

The Québec government spends $275 million on financial aid annually. Of that, $200 million funds bursaries, and $75 million pays the interest charges for student loans.

Paquet said Ryan has failed to keep a 1986 election promise to increase financial aid.

"The first thing the government did in 1986 in the first budget was to cut 10 per cent of the loan and bursaries budget—they cut $28 million," he said. "But during the election time Ryan promised to add $24 million to the loan and bursaries system.

"The strategy of Ryan is to stall for time because he wants to apply his reforms after the next election."

According CUSA co-president Maxine Clarke: "If Ryan feels that ANEEQ's demands are unreasonable, then he would feel that the right to an education is unjust."

Open for April exams

Library decision reversed

by Andy Riga

Loyola's Vanier library may not be gutted during April exams after all.

In a *Link* article Tuesday it was revealed that the contractor working on the library planned to start renovations on the building during the exam period.

Concerns were raised that the moving of books and equipment would disrupt students desperate for quiet study space.

Director of libraries Al Mate confirmed Wednesday that a revised schedule has been implemented and the move will now be postponed until after the end of April.

"I'm very happy about it. It looks like we'll be able to delay the move until later," Mate said.

Mate said he is not sure when the moving of the contents of the old part of the library to the new section will now take place.

"In a worst case scenario—which won't happen—if the move takes place in a peak time, it'll happen either after hours or will be done in such a way where the actual time of inconvienience will be limited. The actual move can take two days," said assistant to the rector Michael Digrappa.

"We have told the project manager that there is to be as little disruption as possible," he said.

Digrappa added that the university is considering paying the contractor to delay the renovations on the old part of the Vanier library.

"I think people are finally coming to realize that something can happen—and they're bracing themselves for what might happen," said CUSA education vice president Randy Orr.

Agenda

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6

Post-Halloween screening All are welcome to attend an evening of Animation shorts followed by a feature-The Devils(1971) by Ken Russell, FREE. 7:30 pm, VA-114.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

The Concordia Orchestra featuring Charles Dallaire on clarinettee. Thomas Kenny conducting. 8 pm, Loyola Chapel, FREE.

GENERAL

Badminton Tues./Thurs.: from 1-4 p.m. and Fri./Sun.: 8-11 p.m. We are looking for enthhusiastic badminton players with caliber for purpose of forming an intramural team(we need women players!). For info. call Athletics 848-3860.

Concordia University Debating Society meetings. Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in H-333-6 and every Friday at 2 p.m. in H-625. Come and learn how to debate! Improve your speaking skills, meet interesting, intelligent and sociable people. We'd be delighted to speak with you! Info. 848-7412.

Tools for Peace for Nicaragua Campaign: Drop your donations at either CUSA office, until November 27. Info. Central America Committee at 848-7410 or message at 848-7474.

PHOTOGRAPHYby native photographers, continues at the Art Workshop, 2480 WWest Broadway, Mon-Fri 10 am-5pm. Ph. 848-3511.

Darkroom space avalable to members of the Art Workshop. Minimal cost. Phone 848-3511, or visit facilities at 2480 West Broadway.

Chines Painting classes now being given by the Art Workshop, call 848-3511.

WOMEN'S LISTINGS

Congress of Black Women of Concordia meeting every Friday at 6:00 p.m. In the P annex(2020 Mackay) rm. 307. Info. 848-7418.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT tuesdays at the Women's Centre. November 10, 12-1:30, Patricia Kredl from Guidance Services speaks on Assertiveness. 2135 Mackay.

Centre d'Etudes Arabes pour le Development presents a day of seminars on: "Arabic Women and Women here" Call 288-3412 for info.

Concordia Womens Collective new meeting time: 5:30 every Tuesday in the Women's Centre, 2130 Mackay. Office at 2020 Mackay, P-202, ph. 848-7411. All women welcome.

Classified

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HELP WANTED

Estetica needs females and males for their every "Wednesday Night Cutting Class." Haircuts performed at $8.00 by experienced junior haircutters, supervised by professionals. Please call for an appointment 849-9231.

On-Campus travelrepresentative or organization needed to promote Spring Break trip to Florida. Earn money, free trips, and valuable work experience. Call Inter-Campus Programs at 1-800-433-7707.

Desperately seeking advertising people for RearGarde magazine. Become rich and famous. (20% commission) Call Paul at 932-7945.

Volunteer position: wanted- Englishh and French producer(s) and contributors for a **student-issue oriented weekly radio** show on CKUT FM. Call Marie-France or Lisa at 398-6787.

Men between 30 and 65 and women outside childbearing age and less than 65 are needed for heart scan tests at the Montreal General HHospital. Non-smokers with no heart disease are required as normal base-lines for 2 types of tests, one taking approx. 6 hours, the other taking approx. 14 hours. $10 per hour will be offered for either test. Call 937-6011 ext. 4122 on Wednesdays or Thursdays between 2 and 4 pm.

Experienced Male singer needed for originsal pop band. Please call 341-3901 or leave message.

HAVE FUN! Photographers seek people for various duties, $10 hourly. 683-4536.

Bilingual person to work in Video club weeknights and weekends. Apply in person at 595 Cote Vertu, St. Laurent, evenings between 5 and 7 pm.

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No Admission Charge
Public Welcome
Filmmaker Gil Cardinal will attend

National Film Board of Canada
Office national du film du Canada

Slumlords cheat student tenants:MCM

by Francesca Lo-Dico

Students in Montreal are taken advantage of by landlords because Quebec rental laws are useless according to Ted Wright, a MCM official.

"The laws are useless because in many areas they are broke and nothing happens. The landlord can go against the law so many times and all they get is a slap on the wrist," said Wright, executive assistant to Arnold Bennett a MCM councillor.

He said students are vulnerable because many don't have the money or the time to fight in court. Also, foreign students who are not aware of their rights or the law are often intimidated by overbearing landlords.

"Students are just there. They're often desperate, like old people, and they do not know their rights," Wright said.

"Landlords know that at the end of the year there are exams. They know that students will be under stress, and will not be able to deal with additional problems and are likely to give up."

Instead of taking out year-long leases, Students tend to ake shorter term leases. The Landlord ,by law, only has to give a month's notice intead of the usual three months to end a rental agreement.

A Concordia student, who does not want to be identified, said she experienced problems with her landlord because he would not do basic repairs and set unrealistic rules.

She said the security in her apartment was terrible, the hydro bill was higher than he told her it would be, and the gas stove didn't work properly.

"I was alone, female, very vulnerable because I was having personal problems and he preyed on my weakness," she said. "He was on a power trip and he abused his power.

"Whe I asked him to make repairs he told me he wasn't a handyman. Who was I supposed to call for repairs?" she said. "We weren't supposed to make any noise after 10:30 pm - but he could play his piano at 7:00 am."

Wright cited an example of a student being kicked out for renovations. He described the tenant as "a punker who wears studs and her hair is a different colour."

He said the landlord may have thought she was weird and worried about what the neighbors would think or that this kind of tenant reduces the value of the house.

"Landlords fiddle with the tenant to suit their own benefits. In reality, they can shop around and choose whatever they want," he said. "Absolute slavery, that's what it's come down to. The tenant can be screwed around by the landlord because he is number one.

"This is like le 'droit du seigneur'."

According to Wright these problems exist because rules are made to favour the ones who are in power.

"The rules are made by the rich for the rich," Wright said.

Bennett agrees the rules favour the landlords.

"When this law was put together, the tenants organizations wanted a much tougher version. The fact that it's taking so long to change the law proves this," Bennett said.

photo by Barbara Davidson

Students should inform themselves of their rights before renting an apartment.

affirmative action plan

Men sign, women protest

by Tu Thanh Ha
Canadian University Press

While daycare workers demonstrated outside, a group of middle-aged white men adorned with neck ties and grey suits sat in a conference room inside to promote employment equity for women last Monday.

Representing four Montreal schools, the men signed agreements to participate in a provincial affirmative action programme already described by critics as being only "a very timid first step."

The agreements are part of a $2 million package on employment equity for women announced by the Quebec Ministry of Education.

The programme is available to the 130 colleges and 10 universities in Quebec. While addressing discrimination against women, it does not mention other minorities.

Each participating college will receive $30,000 a year while universities are eligible for $40,000. Agreements have been signed so far with three universities (Concordia, The Université de Montreal and Tele- Université), and five colleges, including Vanier.

"In many ways the government is giving us false hopes," said Elizabeth Morey, an advisor on the status of women at Concordia. "What the programme is in fact is just the salary of one person for one year and that's all."

"A reason so few schools applied is that paying for someone to study discrimination is not sufficient," said Manon Bouchard, a member of the women's caucus of l'Association nationale des étudiantes et étudiants du Québec (ANEEQ). "A lot more institutions would have joined the programme if other costs had been outlined."

According to Ginette Legault, coordinator for the college and university programmes, subsidies will be allocated to participating schools to employ one researcher per institution for a one-year period.

The researchers, a women hired from within the institution, will study hiring and administrative practices at their respective schools and document patterns of discrimination against women.

The researchers are to report after a period of nine months to one year and propose a "concrete plan of action," Legault said. "The amounts given now are start-up subsidies. When they signed the agreements, the schools committed themselves to follow-up on the plan of action."

Legault said that the cost to implement any recommendations proposed by the researchers would have to be supported by the school, adding that additional subsidies remained "hypothetical."

"If the institution had money, I suppose we could say the onus would rest on the institution," said Morey. "But because of the funding problems of the university, I think the onus should rest on the government."

"It's really a disappointing programme," said Bouchard. "The facts about discrimination are already well documented by (teachers' unions) and they have already made proposals to remedy that with employment equity programmes."

"It's a step but a very timid step, almost an effort to delay things. Teachers' unions have already prepared themselves for major conflicts in this area so it could be a way for the ministry to defuse the issue by saying they are doing something."

While the agreements were signed at a press conference in Montreal, about 60 daycare workers—mostly women—marched outside.

The demonstrations were protesting the provincial government's refusal to negotiate with their union. Among the union's demands was a proposal to allow maternity leaves for daycare workers. Almost 95 per cent of public daycare workers in Quebec are women.

"That's interesting they should be talking about affirmative action," said union executive Helene Courville. "To have access to women's equality on the work force you also have to go through child-care access."

Inside, female maids were setting up wine glasses and appetizers for the post-conference buffet as male administrators gave speeches on affirmative action.

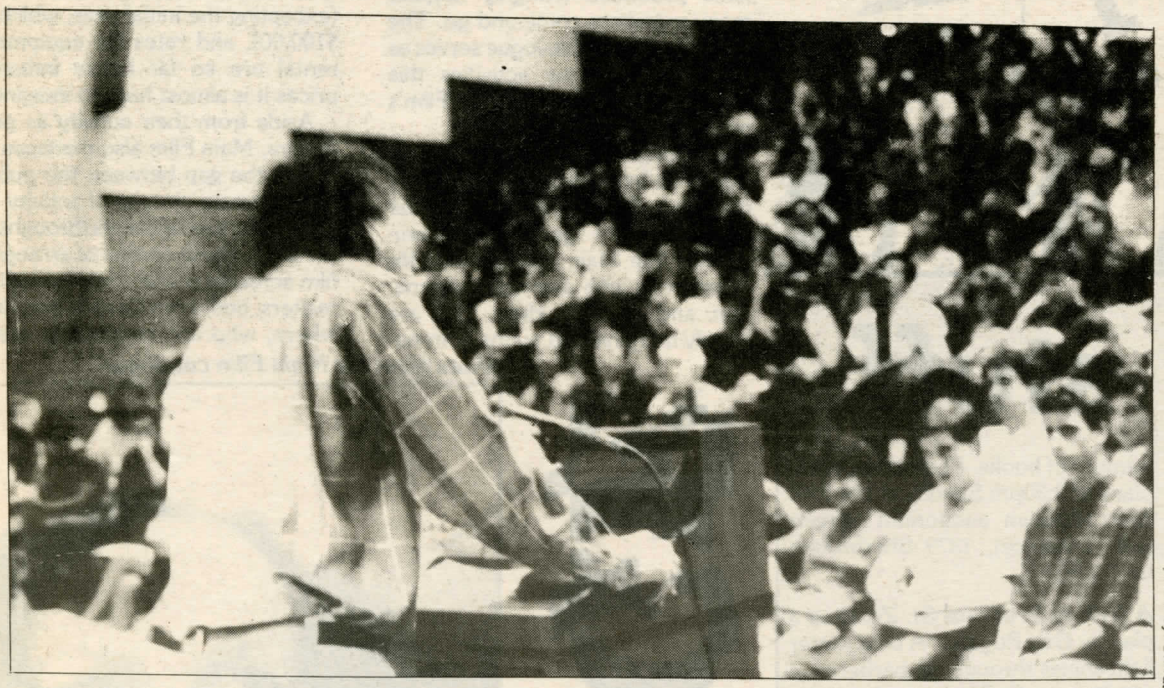


photo by: Sattan

Gwynn Dyer told a full house at McGill Wednesday night that Canada should withdraw from NATO.

Dyer's war on NATO

by Michael Sportza

War historian Gwynn Dyer wants out.

According to Dyer, Canada's greatest hope of achieving world peace is through it's withdrawal from NATO, becoming the first of the top seven heavily industrialized nations to assume a posture of neutrality.

Dyer, an award-winning military columnist, spoke to a full house last Wednesday at McGill's Frank Dawson Adams auditorium.

Dyer said Canada can become a neutral nation simply by strenghtening its borders. This would be achieved by pulling Canadian troops out of their NATO postings, he added.

However, Dyer said the major problem with this is that serving in the Canadian Forces becomes less attractive because "all of the latest war toys are no longer available to play with."

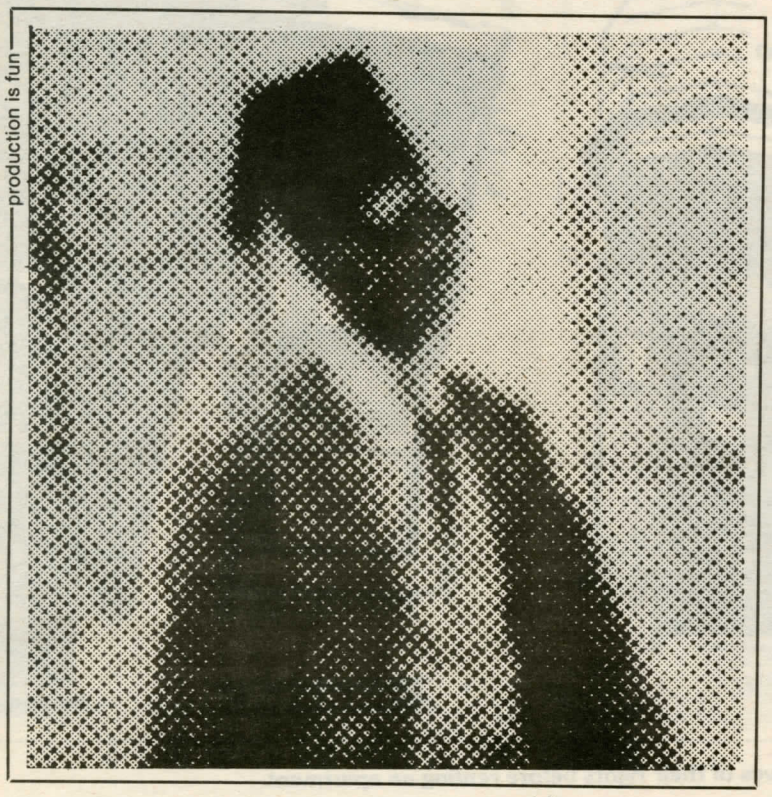
Dyer continued that pulling out of NATO would raise the possibilty that mandatory government service (military or otherwise) may become a part of everyday life, although he said, "conscription is out of the question."

Beside the financial and possible social obstacles to the withdrawal from NATO is a negative American reaction to such a move.

Dyer ended his speech by noting the biggest fears that may face Canadians—economic retaliation—are unfounded because "it would look bad if the U.S. went and started thumping on the head and shoulders of their departing Canadian ally."

production is fun

This sure ain't no Hollyw



by Craig Masterman

1980: In an apartment somewhere in the east end of Montreal, two graduates of Concordia's filmmaking programme consider a future making their own films.

They have spent the past three years of their BFA developing a style of cinema uncommon to the mainstream line of production that explores areas of individual concern. Now that they are no longer in school- but maintain an interest in continuing this approach in their work- they are faced with questions as to how to pursue it.

Entering into the commercial/private sector of filmmaking means an immediate sacrifice of all the energy they have devoted to their personal work's development. The private sector has no interest in film as an art form; it is industry. There are bodies such as the Canada Council which will give grant support, but they must compete for relatively small sums of money with several thousand other filmmakers in the same position.

What they want is easy access to filmmaking equipment, without having to pay enormously high rates for the production of a film that may be seen only a handful of times in the festival circuit.

They consider the idea of creating their own organization with its own equipment that can be rented out at more moderate rates. This benefits not only them, but other local filmmakers in the same position.

The idea for **Main Film** is hatched.

1982: After several more meetings concerning the organizational structure, and having attracted the interest of other filmmakers, the group (now numbering roughly 16) receives a $6,000 grant from the Canada Council to set up an office space in a former clothing factory. Though they are lacking in equipment, they are now official as an organization, and this means a definite future. Main Film has become a reality.

It's 1987 now, and Main Film has grown much in that time. With four 16mm cameras, their own Steenbeck editor, lights, and so on, they now have enough equipment to produce a film of feature length proportions- and that film they have. Not only features, but films of all lengths and genres.

From fiction to experimental, onto documentary and animation, Main Film has been thoroughly active in the Montreal community by assisting its members to produce films that might not have otherwise been made.

They have produced so much work, in fact, that to mark their fifth year of existence they have decided to release a catalogue which celebrates that accomplishment. Those five years of activity have seen many films produced (roughly 50),and many members come and go. The launching of the catalogue serves as a centre for many activities this week geared to increase Main Film's profile in the local community.

A stronger presence in Montreal would be beneficial not only to the members themselves, but for the community in general. Organizations like Main Film provide the community with alternate information and cultural ideas that are largely marginalized by the communication structures of television and Hollywood.

Independent cinema contains a freedom of cultural expression and insight which cannot be experienced through mainstream outlets. The cinema and television industries censor ideas by restricting products to those which essentially serve an entertainment/commercial end. The industries also maintain a tight hold over the distribution and presentation outlets, effectively shutting out all work not tied into the tightly-knit web of commercial production.

Marginalized by industry, Main Film rests at a point where it has no access to a large-scale public audience. But its members are determined to produce their work regardless of the lack of outlets for presentation. Main Film is looking and pushing for the day when the communication systems in Canada open up to the heterogeneity of voices in our culture, so that they may express themselves equally.

People interested in becoming members of Main Film should possess a minimum amount of film experience, be it through education, or self-produced work, etc.

Upon acceptance to the co-op by the steering commitee, applicants go through a four-month period as associate members, during which time they must prove their dedication by contributing time and energy to the general running of the organization.

Satisfactory applicants then become full-time members, which permits access to equipment and resources after the committee approves any proposed project. Full-time membership is $75.00 per year (excepting the initial year, which is $100.00), and rates for equipment rental are so far below industry prices it is almost hard to imagine.

Aside from their activity as producers, Main Film also manages to bridge the gap between the public and alternate circuits of activity by organizing special events throughout the year. These consist of arranging film screenings and visits from filmmakers, both from Canada and elsewhere, who are involved in areas

Shots from the Main Film catalogue.

cheap stuff

The Darned are having a record raunch at Station 10 tonight. Their lovely new album *Hoarse Opera* and tons of paraphenalia will be on sale, cheap I'm sure. If you get your $3 ticket early (at Dutchy's, Cheap Thrills or Sadie's) you'll get a free beer. 2071 Ste. Catherine W. and the Darned will also play there Saturday.

Ushio Torikai will perform as part of the Focus Concerts series at 3981 boul. St. Laurent, suite 305 . This is Musique Actuelle from Japan, and the price is a bit steep ($5), but the show will definately be amazing. That's Nov. 6 at 8:30.

For less culture, but cheap thrills, go to the Loyola campus on Friday, Nov.6 for the **buck-fifty bash**. Peach Schnapps (ooh, sugar hangover) and beer are $1.50, and admission is $2 with ID, $3 without. Guadagni Lounge at 9:00.

Ant Farm, the new kids on the block, are performing Friday at Foufounes. 97 Ste. Catherine E. and it's a mere $3 at the door.

Profils Exhibition 11 Quebec artists now residing in New York have been brought together for this exhibition of their painting and sculpture. It's at la Maison de la Culture de Cote-des-Neiges, 5290 Cote-des-Neiges Road, and it runs from Nov.7 to Dec.13.

Fail-Safe, that amazing Montreal band with the aerodynamic singer dancer extraordonaire, will be flinging themselves about Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Black Lite. Admission is $4, and the place is at 1417 St. Laurent. Get a haircut, Iain.

Berlin, Berlin a series of experimental films on Berlin will be presented by Alf Boldt, director of the "Arsenal" Cinema in Berlin and co-organizer of the "International Forum of Young Cinema" at the Berlin Film Fest. Two different series will be shown Sunday night at 7:30 and 9pm at Cinéma Parallèle, 3682 St.Laurent. $4. Info: 843-6001.
Another club night au chic cabaret, les foufou electriques, Nov. 7. **To Damascus** from Los Angelos will perform thanks to Reargarde and CRSG. 97, Ste. Catherine E. at 9:00 and it's $4 at the door.

Leonardo da Vinci et Marcel Duchamp a lecture in French by Jean Clair, curator at the Musée National d'Art Moderne de Paris, Centre Georges Pompidou. Jean Clair is known as an astute observer of contemporary art and has written a number of books. The lecture takes place at 3:30pm Sunday at the Fine Arts Museum auditorium (street-level entrance), 1379 Sherbrooke W. It's FREE.

A Killing Frost on St. Zotique a play by Guy Rogers. "A cold winter light shines through the barbershop window on St.Zotique, where the grandson enters to find his grandfather, and himself. He discovers the often savage relationship beteen fathers and sons." At the Playwright's Workshop, 4001 Berri, Monday Oct.9 at 8:30pm. $2 for non-members. Info: 843-3685.

Auditions for YM-YWHA's annual spring production, *The World of Entertainment*. Dancers audition at 8pm on Mon. Nov.9 and singers at 7:30pm on Thurs. Nov.12 and Mon. Nov.16 at 5500 Westbury Ave. Info: 737-6551.

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen goes on stage in McGill's Morrice Hall, 3485 McTavish, Nov.11 to Nov.14 and Nov.18 to Nov.21. $5 normal people, $4 students and seniors. All shows at 8pm.

FRINGE

ood!

disregarded by the mainstream.

Past events have included exchanges with co-ops similar to Main Film (such as The Funnel in Toronto), a screening of Micheal Brynntrup's Super-8 avant-garde feature *The Jesus Film* from Germany, and a selection of works from the Naked Eye Cinema in New York.

Scheduled for the New Year is a visit from a representative of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation in Yellowknife, who will also be bringing examples of work made there. All events are open to the public, who are strongly encouraged to attend.

Worth mentioning about the catalogue is a series of articles which discuss the notion of independent cinema from varying perspectives. There is also, of course, the general listing of films and video accompanied by bio's, technical information, and stills. The catalogue gives a sort of symbolic presence for the organisation, making it seem more definite and concrete.

To accompany the release of the catalogue, Main Film is holding screenings of recent work on Friday and Saturday. The featured film styles range widely enough to give the first-time viewer an overview of the sort of work coming out of the group.

Screenings will take place Friday Nov.6 and Saturday Nov.7 over at Cinéma Parallele (3682 blvd St Laurent), at 7:30 and 9:30pm each night.

There will be one programme in French and one in English, and their times will alternate each night. For Friday, the 7:30 screening will be French, followed by English at 9:30; the opposite applies for Saturday.

Closing out the festivities on Saturday night at 9:00pm is a party at the Main Film space (4060 blvd St Laurent, salle 303), to officiate the launching of the catalogue.

So if you're under the impression that the cinema can only be all that you've seen in commercial theatres, then take a second look. Main Film is local, they're doing things all the time, and here's a chance to catch some of it.

photo by Stanley Twardowicz

ARTS

production is fun

Jack Kerouac is back

by Faye Collins

To call October's International Jack Kerouac Gathering in Quebec City a celebration of the writer's work would be a gross understatement. The man's writings, life, loves, manias, paranoias, shortcomings and guilty pleasures, as well as his doomed brilliance, were placed under the microscope by devotees, friends, acquaintances (actual and would-be) and curious on-lookers.

The four-day gathering consisted of conferences, beer-sodden round tables and numerous cultural events focusing on either Kerouac or his home town of Lowell, Massachusetts. It brought even to the novice an understanding of the man who some consider to be one of the most prolific American writers of the post war era.

As Allen Ginsberg said in the film *Le Grand Jack*, "...he was essentially a writing saint...writing was for him sacrament and prayer...". It is not by accident that Ginsberg uses religious imagery. Kerouac, a franco-american with close ties to Quebec, was very Catholic, in fact to his dying day. However, between his youth and his last days, he became a victim of a spiritual battle based on his Catholicism.

As Gerry Nicosia stated in his lecture, Kerouac was tormented by the decision to either stay loyal to the Church and all the comfort that it represented to him, or to explore "life", which meant pleasures of both the mind and the body. He chose the latter, which was the brave and logical decision according to Nicosia. Yet it also provided a base for the ultimate destruction of his peace of mind.

Family was also important to Kerouac. His childhood was relatively happy due to the comaraderie experienced, oddly enough, during the depression. However, with the war, the family was uprooted. It disintegrated with the painful death of his father, who entrusted him with the heavy responsibilty of taking care of his mother at precisely the time that he was totally unprepared for such a task.

Yet his exceptionally close relationship with his mother was the base for several speakers at the gathering. Nicosia felt that only with his mother did Kerouac feel love and acceptance on a consistant level. Montreal poet Josée Yvon felt that Kerouac's writings always had the continuous theme of a return, most probably to his mother.

While he was close to his mother she could not support his art as he would have liked because she did not and would not understand it. As Québec writer Victor Levy-Beaulieu pointed out, Allen Ginsberg's mother supported her son's art because she underwent so many traumas as an immigrant that she wanted to spare him the same indignities. "Memere", a franco-american with a relatively safe haven within her own community, was incapable of doing so.

In terms of conference dynamics, day one was fairly explosive. Levy-Beaulieu's conclusions on Kerouac's intrinsic Québécois identity may have been news to some of the participants not well versed on either the topics or the heat that they usually generate.

Levy-Beaulieu stated that Kerouac was not an American writer and that is why he was not completely understood or accepted. "As a franco-american, Kerouac could not be as integrated into the American fabric as other beat poets," he said.

Eventually the tone of the conference settled down to a level that was appreciated by everyone, which was discussing Kerouac's life and work. Perhaps the participant best able to describe Kerouac "the man" was Carolyn Cassidy, the wife of Kerouac's close friend Neil Cassidy.

She spoke as a reputable witness of one of Kerouac's most important relationships, and was candid about an affair she had with Kerouac as well. She said Kerouac and her husband shared an unconditional love. They complemented one another- while Kerouac was quiet and thoughtful and capable of a deeper, more sensitive passion, Cassidy was the extrovert who tried to make everyone happy.

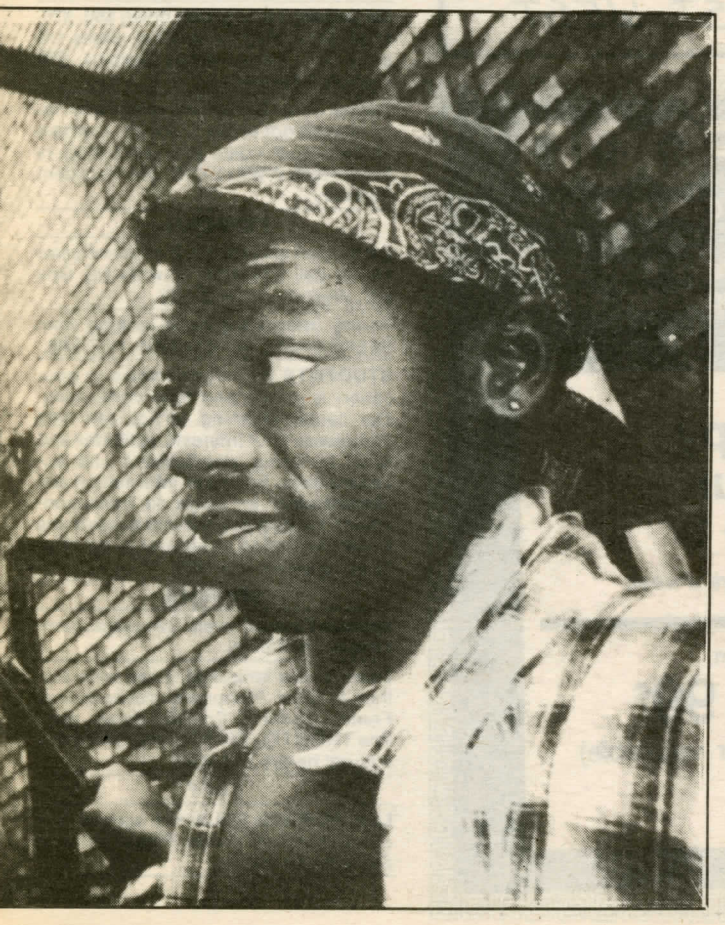
Ginsberg spoke of Kerouac's buddhism. He adhered to two religions, buddhism and Catholicism, that responded to his different needs. As a buddhist, however, what he lacked was devotion. He was self-taught and so cut himself off from the fundamental relationship with a guru. In the end he ended up Catholic, creating Christ imagery and crucifying himself.

Perhaps the most amazing aspects of Kerouac's work were his much-envied stream-of-consciousness style and the amount and quality of work he was able to create in a short time. Between 1946, when he wrote *The Town and the City*, and 1956, he also wrote *On the Road*, *Visions of Cody*, *Doctor Sax*, *Book of Dreams*, *Maggie Cassidy*, *The Subterraneans*, some of *The Dharma Bums*, *Mexico City Blues*, *Tristessa* and *Visions of Gerard*.

Cultural events at the gathering took up as much time as speakers. The main events were the premiere of *Le Grand Jack*; acted-out excerpts of Kerouac's work by the Toledo Poets Center; a concert by singer Mark Murphy; and a poetry night featuring more than twenty poets, mostly from Canada and the U.S. As well, there were art and photographic exhibits and book launchings, most notably that of the French version of Kerouac's last novel *Pic*.

Pic is a tale of a boy on the road that is remarkable for Kerouac's authentic use of black southern dialect. This was the first of Kerouac's books to be translated into French by a North American rather than a European, a fact that is now starting to be considered. Due to the "americanity", in a continental sense, of Kerouac's language, it makes more sense that a Canadian would understand baseball better than an European.

Kerouac's life was tragic. Besides his drug abuse, he died an alcoholic, rejected in all corners, even Lowell and Québec. Yet his life and work were neither glorified nor denounced at the gathering. What happened instead was an examination of all the things that affected him: his Catholicism, his buddhism, and his franco-americanism- and his ability to be both American and francophone and still remain isolated.



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Montreal, Quebec

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Friday, November 6, 1987

the Link

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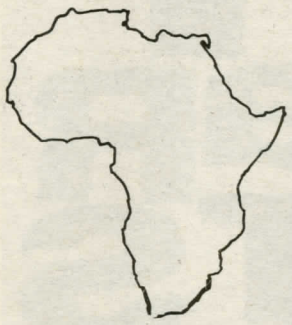

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Sports

"university team" rebuilding

Concordia wrestlers unite

photo by Xavier Nuez

Wrestlers getting the techniques down pat at their high school facility.

by Armand Thomas

The Concordia wrestling team may have a little trouble pinning down its 5th consecutive Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union title without five of last year's gold medalists. But with the country's top coach, a rigorous training program, a sports guru to strengthen their spirit and a wrestling mat available from day one, anything is possible.

Serge Marcil and Graham Dadswell have graduated, while Clark Davis and brothers Pat and Mike Sullivan are still Concordia students but are ineligible to represent the school at the CIAU finals because they've wrestled for the maximum five years.

But because wrestling's regular season consists solely of tournaments which are open to the so-called ineligible athletes, wrestlers from Concordia—who aren't necessarily on the "university team"—will continue to bring down their opponents with regularity.

The 15 members on the "university team" train and compete alongside the 20 or-so members that form Montreal Wrestling Club (MWC)—some of whom include Marcil, Davis and the Sullivans.

The two groups mesh together under coach Victor Zilberman, the dean of Canadian wrestling who also heads the national team in international meets, including the Olympics, and the Quebec team when the MWC represents the province in competition.

Right now, Zilberman, Pat Sullivan, Rob Dawson, Doug Yeats and two Ontario wrestlers are in Korea for a pre-Olympic tournament.

The coach's absence didn't stop Concordia students Simon Alexandre, Tom Rebelo and Bob Watson from grabbing a gold medal at last week's Royal Military College open. Brian Curwin and Mike Meekins took two silvers.

Three nights a week, the Concordia/MWC team get on the mat at the Royal West Academy gym for a two and a half-hour practice session.

And at least twice a day, six days a week, the wrestlers go through a variety of exercises which include swimming, gymnastics, judo, running, weight lifting, soccer, etc.

That gets the muscles in order. For the mind, McGill professor Dr. Dan Marisi—who has preached the power of positive thinking to Indy racers, among others—comes in once week with literature, tapes and relaxation techniques to build up the athletes' mental strength.

Yet, in spite of the hard work and success, Concordia wrestlers have a little problem getting the kind of recognition they deserve.

And their financial situation can do with a little boost as well.

Mike Sullivan says the team's $8,000 budget is the lowest any Canadian wrestling team receives, which goes a long way in explaining why a group of this calibre got its first very own wrestling mat only last year—just in time to host the national championships.

They may be a varsity team, but as Sullivansays, "Not in the eyes of the students. We don't really have any facilities, they never see us practicing."

In his five years on the team, he has trained in at least 10 different locations before landing in the high school gym.

Ideally, the wrestlers would like to move their facilities into the new Vanier Library building.

But they might have to put a headlock on someone rather important to fulfill their wish.

Fast breaks
Of big games and tournaments

Grand soccer finale

The No.1 team in Quebec university men's soccer will be decided on Sunday when Mcgill pays Concordia a visit. The Stingers (7-1-1) handed the Redmen (6-1-1) their only loss of the season, and vice versa.

McGill's 1-0 loss at Loyola in late September was its first in 61 regular season games in six years, but the Redmen's 11-year regular season undefeated streak at home remains intact.

The Stingers lost by the same 1-0 score at Molson Stadium in their sixth game of the season, forcing Andy Oronato's men to sweep their two final games against Bishop's in order to clinch first place and the all important home-field advantage.

"Soccer teams have their sacred grounds and this is our sacred ground," says Oronato. "Any team that comes here wanting to take it away is going to have to fight for it."

The combat begins at 1 o'clock.

B'ball at Loyola

Concordia's 22nd Annual Centennial Men's Basketball Tournament gets off the ground tonight when the Ryerson Rams meet the Dalhousie Tigers at the Stinger Hive (that's Loyola for the uninitiated) at 6 p.m. The St. Joseph (Vermont) Saints then play Doug Daigneault's men at 8 o'clock.

Saturday, the two losing teams play a consolation game at 1 p.m., while the championship match is scheduled to go at 3 p.m.

Daigneault says both Dalhousie and Ryerson—traditional doormats in their leagues—are much improved this year, making this a proverbial any-team-could-win tournament...

New road roomies

Louisa Zerbe's women's basketball team has hit the road to play in the eight-team Carleton University Tournament in Ottawa. This is the first of four weekend tournaments the Stingers will participate in during November.

"It's an opportunity to get to know each other better since it's the first time we'll be rooming on the road said Zerbe. "It's also an opportunity to see how we've improved."

Her team plays the University of Ottawa on Friday afternoon. McGill, Waterloo, Queen's, Wilfred Laurier, Hawthorne College and the hosting Ravens are the other teams present.

The "real" test

The women's hockey team will also be in tournament action this weekend as they travel to the 6-team York University Invitational Tournament.

They play McMaster on Friday night and York on Saturday in the first pool. The University of Toronto, Queen's and Western form the second pool. The two top teams will face-off for the tourney's title, while the second place teams play in the consolation game, both Sunday.

Assistant coach Julie Healy says the tournament will be "a true test of where we stand this year. Ontario teams are always very strong, while the league games haven't really been that tough."

The Stingers are 2-0 in QWIHL play, having outscored their opponents 21-2.

Here come the Ontarians

Two Ontario teams will come here with intentions of cooling off the men's hockey team. The Ryerson Rams(Saturday at 3:30 p.m.) and the Windsor Lancers (Sunday at 1 p.m.) will face Paul Arsenault's squad, whose 3-0 record in the Ontario University Athletic Association represents one more win than they had ALL of last year in the now defunct Quebec University Hockey League (2-15-1).

Ineligibles can't go

Only seven Concordia wrestlers, and not 14 as earlier thought, are heading to Toronto for a (you guessed it) tournament. CIAU officials decided Wednesday night that the McMaster Invintational Wrestling Tournament will only be open to eligible athletes (see story above). Concordia now looks to Chris Villeneuve and Bob Watson to bring home the gold.

Heavenly Soles

The ninth annual Alouette Alumni Trophy, awarded to the most valuable player in Quebec college football, is McGill runningback Mike Soles.

Soles ran for more than 100 yards in all six games he dressed for this year, and has yet to fumble the ball in 13 career games in the Red and White uniform. A $1,000 bursary will be presented in his name to the McGill football program, while he gets to take home a trophy and a plaque.

Soles will lead his team-mates to Lennoxville tomorrow for the Ontario-Quebec Interuniversity Football Conference championship game against the Bishop's Gaiters.

The Redmen have booster bus leaving from the Arthur Currie gym at 10:30 a.m. The cost is $8 (excluding tickets for the game, also available at McGill) and reservations must be made in person.

Concordia's offensive lineman Mike Bertone is the only Stinger on this year's O-QIFC all-star team. The Gaiters dominated the selections with 11 players, followed by Queen's (5), McGill and Carleton (4 each) and the University of Ottawa (1).

A.T.

photo by Vladimir Pavlicik

Basketball star Caroline Assalian (left) with her coach Louisa Zerbe at last week's Governor's Gala, where she received a scholarship from the Foundation for Quebec University Athletes. Dino Perin (men's basketball) and Ron Aboud (football) were the two other Concordia athletes honored.

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